

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action mailed June 1, 2005. Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. Claims 1-9 have been rejected by the Examiner. As noted above, applicants have amended Claims 1 and 8. The amendments are fully supported by the written description.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a vacuum device or negative pressure system, does not reasonably provide enablement for a pressure system, in general, which can include positive pressure.

The Examiner states that “in order to overcome the rejection, it is suggested that ‘a pressure system’ in claim 1 be changed to a --negative pressure system-- or a --vacuum pressure system--.”

Claim 1 recites “a negative pressure system to modify the coating substance applied to the stent supported by the support fixture.” A negative pressure system is taught by the specification as originally filed at least on page 7, lines 4-7 and on page 8, lines 11-13.

Applicant respectfully requests removal of the § 112, first paragraph rejections of claims 1-6.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-9 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 2, 4-11, 13, and 14 of parent Application No. 10/254,203. The parent application issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,818,063 on November 16, 2004.

A terminal disclaimer is co-filed herewith. Applicants kindly request removal of the rejection of claims 1-9 and allowance of the claims.

CONCLUSION

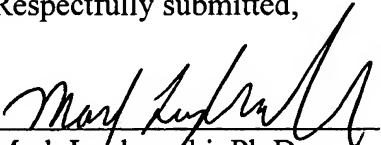
Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Applicant respectfully submits that rejected Claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the foregoing amendments and pass the case to issue.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (415) 954-0297.

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Respectfully submitted,



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